

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 049841

64

ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66613

DRAFTED BY: EUR/NE:APINKNEY

APPROVED BY: EUR/NE:JJCROWLEY, JR.

----- 036642

O 052308Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049841

FOLLOWING REPEATS COPENHAGEN 0589 ACTION DEPT OSAF DOD INFO
BRUSSELS NATO HELSINKI PARIS REYKJAVIK STOCKHOLM THE HAGUE
CINCUSAFE USCINCEUR AFSC ASD/OH/YP USIA FEB 28TH

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, DA

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON THE F-104
REPLACEMENT

REF: COPENHAGEN 0577

SUMMARY: THE NEW DEFENSE MINISTER TOLD ME HE IS
CONFIDENT DENMARK WILL OPT FOR THE F-16 BUT ONLY AFTER
A LENGTHY PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. IF THE CONSORTIUM BROKE
UP, WHICH HE REGARDED AS UNLIKELY, HE THOUGHT BOTH NORWAY
AND DENMARK WOULD GO FOR THE F-16, ALTHOUGH HE INQUIRED
WHETHER THE PRESENT PRICE WOULD STILL OBTAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. I CALLED ON THE DANISH MINISTER OF DEFESNE, ORLA
MOLLER, FEB. 27 TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE F-16 PURCHASE.
MOLLER COMES FROM THE RIGHT WING OF THE SOCIAL DEMO-
CRATIC PARTY, IS VERY MUCH PRO-NATO, AND FEELS THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 049841

DENMARK HAS A STRONG OBLIGATION TO DO HER PART IN SUPPORTING

THE ALLIANCE. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE U.S. CAN READILY BE DEDUCED FROM HIS COMMENT, "THANK GOD FOR GOOD FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES."

2. WHEN I QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE PROBABLE TIMETABLE FOR A DANISH DECISION ON THE PURCHASE OF AN AIR COMBAT FIGHTER, HE REPLIED THAT DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT WOULD BEGIN MARCH 11 AND, HE EXPECTED, WOULD LAST FROM FIVE TO EIGHT MONTHS. HE FELT SURE THAT THE FINAL DECISION WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF THE F-16, "THE ONLY POSSIBLE CHOICE." HE SAID THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE OTHER THREE CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES AGREE WITH HIM BUT ALL FOUR OF THEM HAVE SOFT PEDALLED THAT FACT FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

3. DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE MOLLER PLANS TO DISCUSS ONLY THE BENEFITS OF THE AIRCRAFT AND NOT THE ISSUE OF A EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. HE ALSO PLANS TO STRESS STRONGLY THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT IF DENMARK IS TO MEET HER NATO OBLIGATIONS AFTER 1982. HE HAS THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO DISCUSS THE AIRCRAFT PURCHASE WITH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN WHO, HE SAID, IS JUST NOT INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT. (I PLAN TO RAISE THE AIRCRAFT ISSUE WITH JORGENSEN WHEN I CALL ON HIM.)

4. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION, MOLLER SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN AT THE MEETING OF THE DEFENSE MINISTERS IN EARLY MARCH. HE FELT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE DANGER OF THE CONSORTIUM BREAKING UP, BUT SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, NORWAY AND DENMARK WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY GO FOR THE F-16. IN THAT CONNECTION HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE SAME PRICE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES. I SAID THAT I WOULD INQUIRE. (I WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON THIS POINT WHICH I CAN PASS TO MOLLER.)

5. MOLLER DID NOT FEEL THAT RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY LABOR LEADER THOMAS NIELSEN THAT DENMARK SHOULD PURCHASE THE VIGGEN SHOULD BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY; NEILSEN'S PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN JOBS, NOT IN AIRCRAFT. HE SHOULD NOT, IN FACT, BE EXPRESSING ANY OPINIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 049841

6. WHEN I ASKED IF THERE WERE ANYTHING WE COULD DO TO HELP, MOLLER REPLIED THAT EXCEPT FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BY THE FOUR, THERE WAS NOTHING AT PRESENT.

7. COMMENT: MOLLER SEEMS CONVINCED THAT THE F-16 IS THE ONLY CHOICE FOR DENMARK AND THAT PARLIAMENT WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO ITS PURCHASE. THE ESTIMATED FIVE TO

EIGHT MONTH DELAY IN REACHING THE DECISION, HOWEVER, IS
OBVIOUSLY GOING TO CREATE PROBLEMS WHICH MOLLER SEEMS
TO DISREGARD. I DO NOT SHARE HIS VIEW THAT NIELSEN'S
PREFERENCE FOR THE VIGGEN SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.
AS STATED IN COPENHAGEN 0577, I FEEL THAT THE COMBINATION OF
HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE INDIRECT OFFSETS OFFERED BY
SWEDEN ARE LIKELY TO WEIGH HEAVILY IN PUBLIC OPINION AND
IN THE PARLIAMENT. LIKEWISE, THE UNSTABLE POLITICAL SITU-
ATION HERE DOES NOT OFFER A VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR
MOLLER TO STEER THE DEBATE OR TO HURRY A DECISION.
CROWE
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE049841
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/NE:APINKNEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750077-0881
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750379/aaaactbl.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 COPENHAGEN 0577
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON THE F-104 REPLACEMENT
TAGS: MASS, DA
To: OSLO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006